

Botha under fire over hoax

AMMAN (R) — Foreign Minister PK Botha acknowledged today his allegations of an incursion by Black nationalist guerrillas into South Africa might have been based on false radio broadcasts. Botha said he was not embarrassed to have made the charges, even if the messages were the work of a "crackpot." But the largest white opposition party called for his resignation, saying he had made South Africa the target of international ridicule. Botha claimed he was simply trying to avert conflict prior to the Nov. 7-11 elections that are to lead Namibia, a South African colony, into independence. "If these transmissions are a hoax, I would be the first to be overjoyed," Botha said in a statement Friday. "At least it has had the effect that everybody has been sensitized to the need to curtail violence or 'hate-mongering.'" The far-right Conservative Party, which won 31 per cent of the white vote in parliamentary elections in September, said Botha, "in his usual dramatic and exhibitionist manner," made his pronouncements without verifying his information. "South Africa, which already suffers from a credibility problem, has been made to be the laughing stock of the international community," said the conservative foreign affairs spokesman, Tim Langley.

Jordan Times

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جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية تصدر عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأى

Leipzig mayor latest casualty

EAST BERLIN (R) — The mayor of Leipzig, the East German city rocked by pro-democracy street protests for the past six weeks, resigned Friday, the latest victim of the country's most serious political turmoil in 36 years. In Dresden, a court sentenced three men to prison terms of four years, two and a half years and 26 months for taking part in a riot last month when police tried to stop people boarding a train taking East German emigrants to West Germany. The mayor of Leipzig, Bernd Seidel, quit his post on the grounds that he had lost the confidence of local people, the official news agency ADN said. Hundreds of thousands of people have demonstrated for political reform every Monday in Leipzig since late September in East Germany's largest protests since its foundation in 1949. Up to 300,000 people massed in Leipzig last Monday. The rallies, combined with similar protests in other big cities and the flight to the West this year of 167,000 East Germans, have forced the communist authorities to relax their rule and prompted them to start sacking unpopular officials. A small communist-allied political party, the Liberal Democratic Party, proposed that the entire East German government should resign.

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Aoun remains adamant

BEIRUT (Agencies) — Three bombs exploded outside the homes of three Christian legislators Friday, as army chief Michel Aoun threatened to dissolve parliament if it convened to ratify a peace plan without his approval. The blasts wounded a woman outside the residence of parliament deputy Michel Khazen in Jounieh, in the Christian heartland north of Beirut. The explosions outside the homes of deputies August Bakhas and Salem Abdel Nour in the east Beirut districts of Jdeideh and Badaro, caused no casualties, police said. The three deputies are in Paris along with 25 colleagues from the Christian heartland who have refused to return home after endorsing the Arab League-brokered peace accord during a special parliament session in Saudi Arabia last month.

The blasts occurred within an hour after Aoun ended a news conference at his residence in the bunker of the shell-ravaged Baabda presidential palace. He said: "I ask the legislators not to commit the final and major mistake. I ask them not to take part in the parliamentary session. Let them take their time. Let them come here and let's discuss the document." That was a reference to the 28 parliamentarians in Paris. "Parliament will be dissolved before the meeting gets underway if they tried to pass the document without discussing what they have done with me," said Aoun, who heads the military cabinet in Lebanon's dual government.

An aide to Aoun said earlier the Maronite general and the two other officers in his interim military cabinet were considering adopting "historic decisions. Its a crucial meeting." That led to speculation he would dismiss the 73 deputies, the last elected officials still in office after 14 years of civil war. Aoun's cabinet is vying for power with the civilian government of acting Prime Minister Salim Al Hoss. The conservative Al Diyar newspaper said Lebanon's

Ambassador to France Fuad Turk informed the lawmakers currently in Paris that Aoun has decided to dissolve parliament. Maronite Christian patriarch appealed to acting Speaker Hussein Hussein to delay the meeting. Hussein said it would go ahead as scheduled. The outcome, however, remained in doubt. Deputies needed for a quorum were outside the country, waiting to see whether Aoun could be persuaded to drop his opposition, consultations continued on all sides. Postponement of the session until Monday or Tuesday was predicted by many political insiders.

Two Palestinians killed in W. Bank

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Israeli soldiers fatally shot a 16-year-old Palestinian in a clash with stone-throwers Friday in the occupied West Bank, and an Arab woman was killed by unknown assailants, apparently for prostitution, Arab reports said. Both incidents occurred in the old central market of Nablus, the West Bank's largest city with 120,000 people. The city was put under curfew by the army after the incidents. The army said that troops had opened fire with plastic bullets in

the central market after stones were thrown, but said it could not say if the teenager was killed in the incident because his family had removed the body from a Nablus hospital for burial before troops arrived. The woman, Naima Farouk Jaara, was taken from her home by masked men had found later with a single bullet wound in the head, reports said. She was accused of prostitution and collaborating with the Israeli occupation authorities, they said. Meanwhile, the army said soldiers sealed the homes of three

Palestinians in the Tufah neighbourhood in Gaza City. Residents in the houses, including two brothers, were suspected of belonging to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO), of making explosive devices and of throwing molotov cocktails, the army said. The U.S. government and human rights groups have repeatedly complained about Israeli's policy of destroying or sealing homes, saying it constitutes collective punishment and often occurs before the suspect is convicted of any crime.

Reports that nearly 40 people lived in the affected homes. According to the army, more than 240 houses have been destroyed since the uprising began. At least 50 Palestinians died at the hands of Israelis and unknown assailants during October, one of the bloodiest months since the uprising erupted in December 1987. Bethlehem, the Israeli Information Centre for Human Rights in the Occupied Territories, said Thursday that troops killed 30 Palestinians, including a three-year-old boy.

Response to Baker eludes Israel

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel's coalition leaders failed Friday to draft a response to U.S. proposals for Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo. Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his three most powerful ministers conferred for about an hour but were able to say only that their "positive effort" to agree on a common position would continue. "This effort will continue and hopefully succeed and a joint formula will be submitted to the cabinet," the four men said in a joint statement read to reporters. The Cairo talks were proposed to break a deadlock on Israel's call for Palestinian elections in the occupied Gaza Strip and the West Bank. Defence Minister Yitzhak

Rabin said the four men, two each from rival sides of Israel's coalition government, had discussed the latest U.S. proposal on the Cairo negotiations but did not know when they would meet again. Israel must decide quickly if it is to issue a response to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker before Shamir leaves for the United States Nov. 13. Members of Shamir's right-wing Likud faction had described the new U.S. proposal as a victory for Israel that gave it a veto over the composition of the Palestinian delegation in Cairo. Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak angered Israeli officials by saying Thursday that the

Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) would have to approve preparations for the Cairo talks. The daily Maariv said the majority of Likud ministers now want to accept the U.S. proposal, then demand additional American guarantees that the PLO play no role in peace talks. Foreign ministry sources, asking not to be identified, said there was "astonishment" at Mubarak's comments when he met Yasser Arafat, chairman of the PLO. Mubarak said Arafat would have to approve the terms of proposed Israeli-Palestinian talks in Cairo. "These declarations contradict

in essence Israel's 'peace' initiative as well as the proposals of Baker," said an official. The PLO Executive Committee will meet in Cairo Saturday under the chairmanship of Arafat, Egypt's Middle East News Agency (MENA) reported Friday. If held, the meeting would be the first by the PLO's 15-member ruling body in Cairo in more than 12 years. The state-owned agency said the agenda would include efforts to organise an Israeli-Palestinian peace dialogue and the situation in the Israeli-occupied West Bank and Gaza. All committee members are expected at the session except Bishop Elias Khoury, who is sick, the Egyptian agency said.

Court said not to accept 'apostasy' case

By Ghadeer Taher
Jordan Times Staff Writer
AMMAN — An unprecedented case filed by fundamentalists against a woman candidate running in the Nov. 8 elections has been rejected by an Islamic court, signalling an apparent victory for liberals over ultra-conservative tendencies in the country. The apostasy and atheism case against Toujan Faisal, an aspirant for the Circassian seat in the Fifth District of Amman, was ruled by Sheikh Mahmud Al Shanqiti as beyond the jurisdiction of his Islamic Sharia court, according to informed sources. No official confirmation was available. The source said the judge, citing constitutional and Sharia court procedures, had dismissed the case in the absence of the two parties involved. "I have not been officially notified of the decision," said Faisal, when reached by telephone. "However, it was a foregone conclusion since it was clear that they (the plaintiffs) had no case against me."

Monzer Hamo, Faisal's lawyer, said he was also not officially notified of any ruling in the case and that he would attend court on Nov. 9, the date set by the judge to rule whether the court was competent to hear the case, the first of its kind in Jordan. The two plaintiffs, one an assistant mufti in the Armed Forces, citing "public right," wanted the Sharia court in Amman to declare Faisal incompetent, dissolve her marriage and give anyone immunity who sheds her blood. Judicial sources quoted by Reuters said Shanqiti based his ruling partly on Article 105 of the Constitution, which says Sharia courts have jurisdiction on cases concerning the personal status of Muslims, blood money and Muslim religious endowments. Many observers view the early decision as a result of popular indignation and pressure to make a ruling ahead of the elections to the Lower House of Parliament. Activists, university professors, lawyers and journalists submitted a petition to His Majesty King Hussein Wednesday, denouncing the charges against Faisal as "intellectual and psychological intimidation which will reflect badly on Jordan's image and on the democratic atmosphere for the elections..." According to Faisal, an organized group which she did not identify, engineered the case "aimed at stif-

ling the women's movement in Jordan... and imposing their (the group) own law in the country. One Islamic group, the Muslim Brotherhood, has denied any links to the two fundamentalist plaintiffs and said that the suit was damaging to their candidates in the Nov. 8 elections but adopted a neutral posture over the case. The two plaintiffs based their charges on an article Faisal wrote in the Arabic Al Ra'i daily as part of an ongoing debate on women's role in society and their competence in handling important national issues. The plaintiffs alleged that Faisal, 40, a former television personality who aired a series of controversial issues such as child abuse and wifebeating in her 18-year career with Jordan Television, had questioned the Prophet Mohammad's sayings. "The defendant had dared to declare her apostasy and ridiculed the Prophet Mohammad in his conclusive judgements," they charged. "She contested the Prophet Mohammad's saying which describes women as lacking in mind and religion... and considered these sayings as a crime and advocated equality between men and women," they contended.

"She described as contemptuous the instructions on women to be polite and to dress decently and the divine order which stipulates that two women witnesses equal one male witness in court... and... she called for the domination of the mind rather than the domination of one person over another," they claimed. According to Faisal, the charges were "based on excerpts taken out of context from the article." She argued that the charges were "politically motivated" since the plaintiffs waited over one month "until the elections and my candidacy to raise the issue." Faisal, well versed in the Koran, said she believes that Islam gives equal right to both men and women. She said Friday that she was approached with an offer that the case against her could be dropped if she apologised for the Al Ra'i article, which appeared under the title "They curse us and we elect them," and if she promised to not to press countercharges against the plaintiffs. "I refused," she said. "If I had agreed to (such a deal), it would have deprived many others like me of their rights."

No change in firm Soviet stand behind call for peace conference

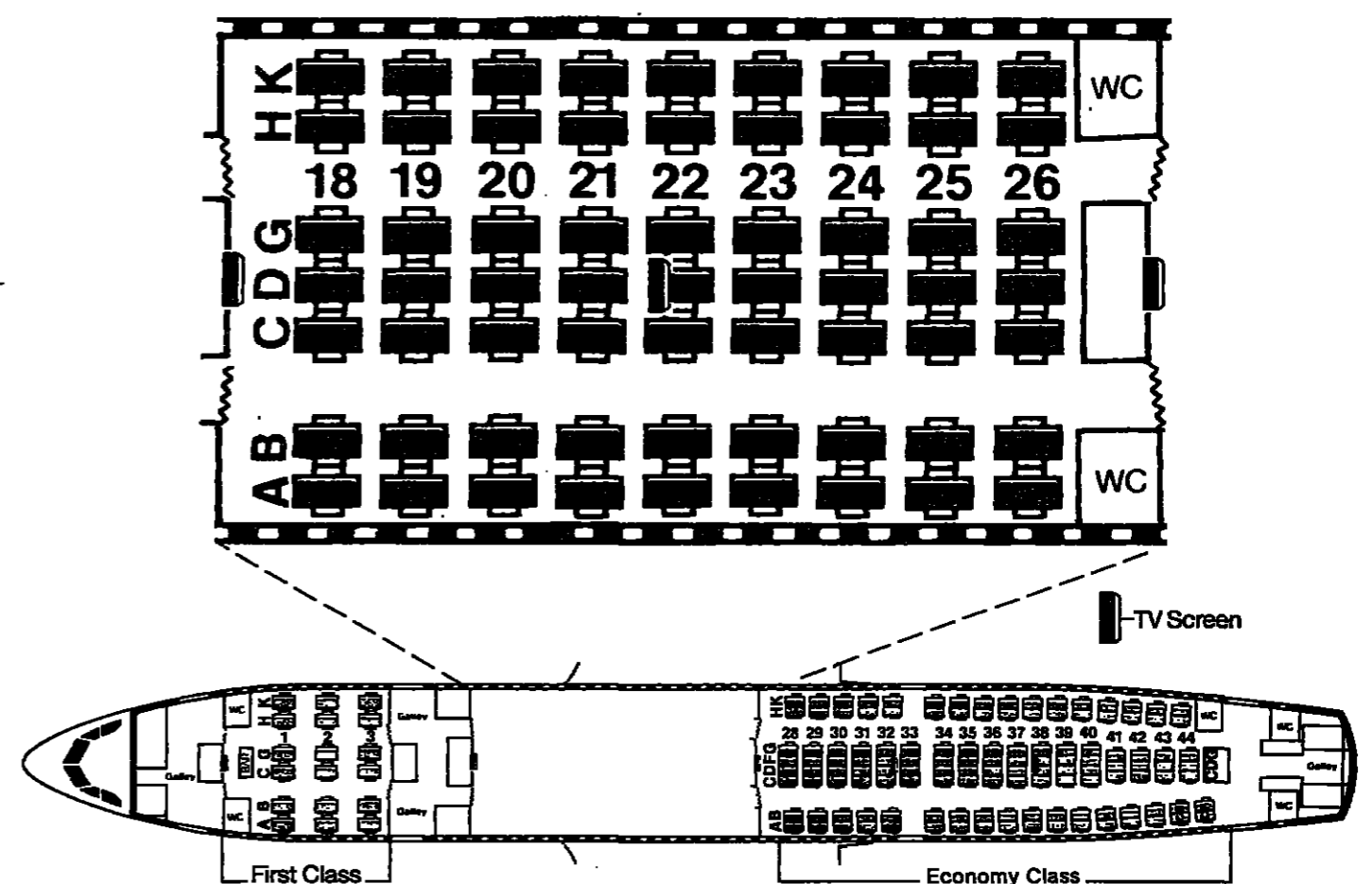
By Ghadeer Taher
and P.V. Vivekanand
Jordan Times Staff Writers
AMMAN — Recent remarks by a senior Soviet official that an American formula for Middle East peace talks was worth considering do not indicate any change in Moscow's firm belief that an international peace conference is the best medium to settle the Arab-Israeli conflict, according to the Soviet ambassador to Jordan. "Our position remains unchanged," said Ambassador Alexander Zinchuk. "We are open to all options and means to arrive at a peace settlement (in the Middle East) through an international conference," he said. The ambassador was answering a Jordan Times question on a recent statement by special Soviet envoy Gennady Tarasov, who visited Cairo last week, that a five-point proposal by U.S. Secretary of State James Baker as well as other suggestions were "worth discussing." The statement was interpreted by analysts as indicating a new Soviet shift in the Middle East peace efforts since the Baker formula does not refer to an international conference, an idea firmly advocated by the Kremlin. In an interview with the Jordan Times, Zinchuk affirmed that Moscow was trying to break the deadlock in Middle East peace efforts and said Soviet consideration of any suggestion or proposal from any quarters should be seen strictly within this context. According to the ambassador,

Moscow is still nursing its proposal for a preparatory meeting of the main parties involved in the Middle East conflict — the PLO, Jordan, Syria, Lebanon, Egypt and Israel — to pave the way for a U.N.-sponsored peace conference. The proposal, tabled by (Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard) Shevardnadze during his visit to the Middle East earlier this year, is still alive," he said. "Some of the parties expressed reservations over the proposal at that time, but now there seems to be some changes," he added. Moscow believes that its proposal is one of the options available to the Arabs as well as other parties to end the stalemate in peace efforts, Zinchuk said. "We are also hoping to advance our efforts in talks with (Israeli Deputy Prime Minister) Shimon Peres when he visits Moscow" in December, he added. Although Peres will not be visiting the Soviet Union as a guest of the government, "it is possible that high-level officials, including Shevardnadze, will hold talks with" the Israeli Labour Party leader, the ambassador said. He doubted whether Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev would meet with Peres, whose visit comes in response to an invitation from a Soviet peace committee. In any event, Zinchuk added, "neither the Soviet Union nor the U.S. can be expected to produce a solution to the Arab-Israeli conflict; it is the responsibility of the parties directly involved. We are here to help." At the same time, he agreed

that as long as Israel refuses to relinquish occupied territory there could not be any meaningful advance in peace efforts. Moscow hopes the Israeli government "will adopt a more realistic position," he said. However, he also expressed the opinion that the Israeli rightists' rejection of any return of occupied land was "a bargaining position... since they know that they will have to make concessions if durable peace is to be achieved." Conceding that chances for solid progress in peace efforts were dim as long as the present rightist-dominated coalition government remains in power in Israel, the ambassador said it was up to the Israeli electorate to choose their government and decide whether they want peace. Peres has confirmed that he would go to the Soviet Union in December, the first visit there by an Israeli minister since Moscow severed diplomatic relations with Israel in 1967. Moscow has gradually restored some of the links severed with Israel in 1967 exchanging consular delegations and raising media speculation that it was moving towards restoring formal ties. But, Zinchuk stressed that the fundamental Soviet stand that restoration of ties with Israel is contingent on a just and durable Middle East peace settlement. Zinchuk said that economic relations would be high on the agenda for Peres, who is also finance minister. Peres has said that "they (Soviet Union) have a keen interest in

economic ties with us and we have a keen interest in economic ties with them." "It's not just a matter of international prestige. We have nearly two-and-a-half or three million Jews there," he added. In line with the new policy of liberalisation in the Soviet Union under Gorbachev, about 200,000 Soviet Jews are expected to emigrate in the next two years. The United States, a hitherto ardent advocate of permission for Soviet Jews to emigrate, has announced that it would only take 18,000, leaving open the possibility that the bulk of the 200,000 would end up in Israel and settle in the occupied West Bank at the expense of the Palestinians living there. Zinchuk said the Soviet authorities had very limited control over the destination of Jews leaving their country. According to Zinchuk, most Jews leave the Soviet Union for economic reasons and usually opt to settle in the United States or Western Europe. Only about 10 per cent of all Jews who left the Soviet Union in the past 20 years chose Israel as their new home and Israel is now making a concerted effort to increase this percentage. "We cannot control where these emigrants decide to settle," said Zinchuk. "Once they leave our responsibilities are over." But, he added in an afterthought, "it is unlikely that any big number of Soviet Jews will head for Israel on their own accord. They will be seeking to go to the U.S., other North American countries and Europe."

There's a great seat waiting for you on our great Business Class from Amman.



Israel plans \$2b project to settle Soviet Jews

TEL AVIV (R) — Israel's Jewish Agency has said it would raise \$2 billion to settle a wave of Soviet Jewish immigrants, expected in Israel to total 100,000 in the next three years. Part of the money would be used by the semi-governmental agency to attract Soviet Jews to Israel by "conditioning their hearts and minds" with Jewish educational programmes inside the Soviet Union, agency chairman Shimon Peres said Thursday. "Most Soviet Jews who emigrate head for the United States or destinations other than Israel. About 10 per cent come to the Jewish state." Changing policies towards Soviet Jewry by the two superpowers have triggered expectations within Israel of a wave of 100,000 or more immigrants in the next three years. Ditz and other officials told reporters during a Jewish Agency convention they had reached a two-part agreement with the Israeli government. The first section stipulated the government would cover \$1.5 billion of absorption costs. Jewish organisations abroad would raise \$250 million, Ditz said. A second part was "to operate within the Soviet Union educational-cultural activities aimed at conditioning the hearts and minds of Soviet Jews to immigrate to Israel," he said. Israel's Housing Minister David Levy has proposed settling the Soviet immigrants in the occupied West Bank.

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Lufthansa

U.S. still 'great Satan' decade after Tehran embassy seizure

NICOSIA (R) — Iran has boosted the volume of its anti-American rhetoric, proclaiming that the United States is still "the great Satan" and the Islamic Republic's enemy number one.

The build up of vitriol against Washington will peak Saturday, the 10th anniversary of the seizure of the American embassy in Tehran by radical students which led to 52 American diplomats and servicemen being held hostage for 444 days.

Hopes that the death of Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini and the elevation three months ago of Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani as president would lead to a thaw in Tehran-Washington relations remain unfulfilled.

Washington has been billed as a terrorist state, a thug and a ruffian which lives by the law of the jungle by Iran in a concerted campaign to whip up renewed anti-American fervor.

Radicals plan to march on the U.S. embassy building Saturday, named "the day of struggle against global arrogance," to stage an anti-American rally.

Organisers say 160 American flags will be burned, 10 for each Kuwaiti Shi'ite Muslim executed by Saudi Arabia after bomb incidents in Islam's holy city of Mecca. Iran has accused the United States and Saudi Arabia of being behind the bombings.

Iran said it was opening the embassy for five days to display an exhibition on U.S. espionage and parade people accused of spying for Washington.

Nov. 4, 1979 marks the ascent to the summit of freedom, the shattering of the steeliness of the great Satan," the newspaper Abrar said.

As Khomeini lay dying, commentators seized on any hint of a softening towards the West. Rafsanjani has steered a delicate political path through militant Islamic factions to win leadership.

But when Rafsanjani summoned the world press to Tehran last week for a news conference there was cold comfort for the West.

All he could do was repeat that the United States should make the first gesture by releasing frozen Iranian assets Tehran estimates are worth about \$12 billion.

President Jimmy Carter froze them in 1979 shortly after the Tehran embassy occupation. President Ronald Reagan renewed the executive seizure order annually for the next eight years. Next week President George Bush will probably do so again.

Washington has repeatedly refused to link the assets with freedom for eight Americans held hostage by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon, seen as the key to better relations with Iran.

Iran's Islamic leaders still publicly gloat at the seizure of the U.S. embassy.

They see it as just humiliation of a superpower for backing the

late Shah Mohammad Reza Pahlavi whom they hold guilty of plundering Iran's wealth and leading the country away from Islam towards the perceived decadence of the Western camp.

The U.S. embassy, dubbed the "den of spies," was the scene of daily anti-American demonstrations by angry Iranians during the occupation.

The United States watched helplessly. The American public seethed at the daily televised humiliation of the hostages. Diplomatic efforts proved useless.

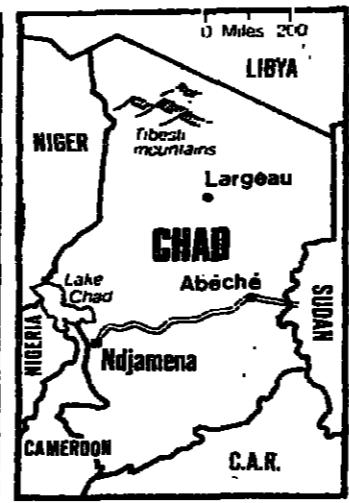
Describing the publicity gains for the youthful Islamic Republic from the seizure of the U.S. embassy, Iran's spiritual leader Ayatollah Ali Khamenei said Wednesday: "Its main thrust was that the colossal empire of wealth, might and deception which pushed around nations and their leaders... was itself humiliated."

"The world was shown that the power of the bullies is not absolute," he said.

But the wisdom of the move — which isolated Iran from the West and led to the freezing of badly needed capital — has been increasingly questioned in Iran.

Without a tangible concession from the United States, however, no Iranian leader can risk a bold move to repair ties which might be branded a betrayal of Khomeini's legacy and the "death to America" trademark of Iran's 1979 Islamic Revolution.

"It is virtually out of the ques-



Libya denies part in Chad fighting

NICOSIA (R) — Libya denied Chad reports that it was involved in fighting near the Sudanese border Monday and called on the Organisation of African Unity (OAU) to send a fact-finding team to the frontier battlezone.

A Libyan Foreign Ministry statement carried by the official news agency JANA, received in Nicosia Friday, said Libya "refrains from any action which might lead to the escalation of hostilities in those remote areas."

Chad said Thursday its troops killed 600 guerrillas and destroyed a base used by the Libyan-backed Islamic Legion in a 12-hour battle.

It accused Libya of violating an accord signed in Algiers in August in which the two countries agreed to settle conflicting claims to the Aouzou Strip. Libya has occupied the mineral-rich strip of desert since 1973.

The Chadian communiqué said: "This violation... demonstrates that despite the best efforts of our African and Arab brothers, and Chad's ardent desire for peace, Libya's leaders have not renounced their original sin of going back on their word and renege on agreements."

The communiqué said the battle capped "Numerous provocations by the Islamic Legion that have occurred since Oct. 16 and have been reported in the Libyan media."

Libya denied any relationship with what it called "the imaginary and unfounded so-called Islamic Legion" and said it would adhere to the Algiers peace accord "as long as the other side abides by it."

It called on the OAU to send a team to the battle area "to refute the reports of Libyan participation in the fighting."

MIDDLE EAST NEWS BRIEFS

U.N. envoy leaves for Tehran

BAGHDAD (R) — U.N. envoy Jan Eliasson, on a mission to reactivate stalled Gulf peace talks, left for Tehran Friday after winding up discussions with Iraqi leaders. Talks aimed at establishing real peace between the Gulf foes have made little progress since a United Nations-brokered ceasefire went into effect in August 1988. Eliasson said before his departure from Baghdad: "It is in the long-term interest of Iraq and Iran to bypass the unhealthy and incorrect state of no-war no-peace," the Iraqi News Agency (INA) reported.

Palestinians to mark Balfour event

DAMASCUS (R) — A radical Palestinian guerrilla leader Thursday urged Palestinians to remember Britain's Balfour Declaration by stepping up military action against Israel. The Nov. 2, 1917 Balfour Declaration paved the way for the creation of Israel. Abu Musa, leader of the Fateh Uprising group, said in a statement political means would not restore Palestinian rights.

Saudi Arabia executes 8

NICOSIA (R) — Saudi Arabia beheaded eight people, including two Pakistanis, Friday for rape, murder or drug-trafficking. The Saudi Press Agency, monitored in Cyprus, quoted an Interior Ministry statement as saying the Pakistanis, Mohammad Dustan Aslam Khan and Taj Ali Khan, were executed in Jeddah for smuggling heroin into the kingdom. The statement said six men were beheaded in other parts of the country after being convicted of murder or rape. It did not specify their nationality.

SLA frees nine detainees

MARJAYOUN (R) — An Israeli-backed militia has released eight men and a woman it had detained for two years for attacks against it in South Lebanon, a spokesman said. He said the nine were released from Khiam prison camp inside Israel's self-declared security zone, set up by the Jewish state in 1978 to protect its northern border from guerrilla attacks. The South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia has barred the International Red Cross from the prison, where several hundred people are believed held.

Soviet aide meets Iranian ministers

NICOSIA (AP) — The Soviet Minister for Foreign Economic Relations, Konstantin Katushev, met with Iran's defence and foreign ministers, Tehran Radio has reported. Defence Minister Akbar Torkan told the Soviet visitor that "we have created an experienced, massive defence industry to back our full fighting forces," and stressed the need to continue bilateral cooperation, the radio said. The Iranians are in the process of merging their two separate defence forces.

Syria frees 171 Sunni fundamentalists

TRIPOLI, Lebanon (R) — Syria Thursday released 171 Lebanese Muslim fundamentalists of the pro-Iranian Tawheed militia in this northern port city following mediation efforts by Tehran, security sources said. They said Sheikh Saeed Shaaban, head of the Sunni Muslim movement, escorted the released detainees from Syria to the Tripoli, the stronghold of the militia. Damascus took similar steps during the past year by freeing several Tawheed militants following Iranian mediation efforts with Syria, Tehran's only Arab ally. Damascus detained hundreds of militants in 1986 when it clamped down at Tawheed's bases in the Syrian-controlled port city.

Tutu to pray in occupied Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — Archbishop Desmond Tutu of South Africa is to make his first Christmas pilgrimage to occupied Jerusalem, church staff here have said. An aide to Anglican Bishop Samir Kafit said Tutu, a vocal anti-apartheid campaigner, would attend Christmas eve midnight mass in Arab East Jerusalem's Saint George's cathedral but was not expected to attend any political meetings. "It will be a short visit of prayer and pilgrimage," she said. Israeli leftists invited Tutu in 1986, but the trip was cancelled after South African media reported him as saying he would never come until the Palestinian flag flew over Jerusalem.

Bashir challenges SPLA to accept peace ideas

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military leader, who has vowed to crush southern rebels, has challenged them by adopting proposals which ignore their conditions for ending six years of civil war.

General Omar Hassan Al Bashir said in a statement that his junta had accepted a federal system of government proposed by a 44-day peace conference, which ended last month.

The rebel Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA) has rejected the conference, which was sponsored by the military leadership and in its war against Khartoum has demanded a system of confederation.

Bashir, who seized power in a June coup, said he would adopt the conference's proposals on a fair distribution of wealth and on development projects in the country, a reference to allocating more funds to the southern region. Sudan's most underdeveloped area.

The proposals from the conference dodged the thorny issue of Islamic Sharia Law, at the heart of the conflict in the mainly animist and Christian south.

It proposed that Sharia and local customs provide the basis for legislation in Sudan.

The SPLA, fighting to end what it views as domination by the Arabised Muslim majority over the country, demands that Sharia Law be replaced by secular laws.

Sharia was introduced by then President Jaafar Numeiri but has largely not been enforced since he was overthrown in 1985.

Bashir's announcement was coupled with a mounting signs of renewed war between his government and the rebels.

A state media campaign reflected a war mood triggered by the fall at the weekend of the border town of Al Kurmuk into SPLA hands, the first major battlefield defeat for Bashir since he seized power.

State television has been broadcasting martial music and footage of jubilant army troops celebrating victory over the rebels in an unidentified battle earlier in the war.

Bashir has vowed to retake the town and crush the SPLA.

Travelers who arrived in Khartoum Wednesday from the Blue Nile province reported heavy air traffic over the area by Sudanese transport aircraft and war planes.

There was no reaction in Khartoum to reports by foreign relief workers that jets Tuesday bombed the SPLA-held town of Yirol. The workers said several people were killed or wounded.

Radio SPLA said four civilians were killed in the bombing raid it said was carried out by the Sudanese Air Force, six civilians were wounded.

"Every warmongering madness... will be quickly met by a swift, iron-fisted retaliation that will cost the regime another garrison town," the radio, monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC), said Thursday.

The travellers reaching the capital did not report any unusual military activity in the strategic town of Al Damazin further north of Al Kurmuk. The rebels have vowed to advance to Al Damazin if Bashir tried to retake Al Kurmuk.

Bashir dispatched his deputy, Brigadier Al Zubeir Mohammad Saleh, to Iraq Tuesday for a two-day visit.

Diplomats say Baghdad, which Bashir visited twice since he took power, has been among Khartoum's main arms suppliers for nearly two years.

Mohhtashemi denies power struggle in Iran

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's former interior minister, the hardline Ali Akbar Mohhtashemi, Friday denied reports of factional power struggles within the Islamic Republic's leadership, saying it was united behind its anti-American policies.

In an interview with the Islamic News Agency (IRNA), Mohhtashemi said that reports of a power struggle between radicals and pragmatists in Iran were "totally erroneous."

"Conservative or extremist in the Western sense of the words are just alien expressions to Islam, and when a common enemy is concerned a Muslim has just one single outlook," he told IRNA in an interview monitored in Nicosia.

Mohhtashemi, a leading radical, was dropped from the government of the pragmatic President Hashemi Rafsanjani.

In a press conference in Tehran last week, Rafsanjani admitted that there was a "difference in thinking" among the Iranian leadership.

Rafsanjani, elected last July, dropped many of the leading radicals from his government in favour of better qualified, often Western-educated technocrats.

While the radicals eschew any relations with the West — especially the United States — the pragmatists are believed to want to improve Iran's radical image, and end its isolation in the interna-

tional community to help get economic assistance.

Mohhtashemi will be addressing the celebrations at the "U.S. spy den," IRNA said, referring to the former embassy compound.

But while the radicals have been trying to whip up anti-American sentiment to block any efforts by Rafsanjani to thaw Tehran's frosty relations, Rafsanjani has not said a word in public about Saturday's anniversary.

Rafsanjani tried to play down the anniversary of the U.S. embassy takeover at his press conference. He did not show much enthusiasm for the occasion, and said that "usually we do celebrate such events, but it all depends on the spirits of the people."

Iranians interviewed on the streets of Tehran have also shied away from talking about the ceremony.

Mohhtashemi, patron of the pro-Iranian Shi'ite Muslim

Lebanese groups holding 16 Western hostages, went to Lebanon last month, soon after Rafsanjani said the hostages could be freed if the United States released billions of dollars of Iranian assets frozen by Washington following the embassy takeover.

Washington has set the release of the hostages as a precondition for ties with Tehran.

Although the reason for Mohhtashemi's hurried trip is not known, he said in the interview that he went to Lebanon to "assure Lebanese Muslims and all revolutionary brethren that there has been no change in our policies after the passing away of Imam."

Iran's former chief justice, Musavi Ardebil, another reputed hardliner, said in a sermon Friday that "the takeover of the embassy humiliated the United States in the eyes of the world, and we must keep the memory of this historic event perpetually alive."



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JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION		14:22 'Asr
Tel: 773111-19		16:48 Maghrib
		18:47	..... 'Isha
PROGRAMME ONE			
15:30	..... Koran		
15:40	..... Programme review		
15:45	..... Children programme		
17:30	..... Educational programme		
18:00	..... News summary		
18:45	..... Message from Iraq		
19:25	..... A play by Shakespeare		
19:10	..... Local programme		
19:40	..... Programme review		
19:50	..... News in Arabic		
20:00	..... News in English		
20:10	..... News in Arabic		
20:30	..... Consumer's Guide		
22:25	..... Local programme		
23:00	..... News in Arabic		
PROGRAMME TWO			
19:40	..... Agnes Et Loups		
19:50	..... News in French		
19:15	..... Documentary		
19:30	..... News in Hebrew		
19:50	..... News in English		
20:00	..... News in Arabic		
20:30	..... Allo Allo		
21:10	..... Saturday Variety show		
21:20	..... News in English		
22:10	Feature Film: "Sherlock Holmes and the Secret Weapon"		
PRAYER TIMES			
15:50	..... Fair		
17:30	..... (Sunrise) Dhuhr		
18:19	..... Dhuhr		
CHURCHES			
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swfileh			
Tel. 810740			
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.			
632703			
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.			
Church of the Annunciation Tel.			
637440.			
De la Saile Church Tel. 611757			
Terraunta Church Tel. 622366			
Church of the Annunciation Tel.			
623541.			
..... Church Tel. 625383, Tel.			
628543.			
Armenian Catholic Church Tel.			
771531.			
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.			
775261.			
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.			
Asian International Church Tel.			
685726.			
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.			
811285.			
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-			
Day Church Tel. 815817, 654952.			
WEATHER			
Bullshit supplied by the Department of			
Meteorology.			
Temperatures will be above the			
annual average and some clouds will			

ELECTIONS '89

By Nermeen Marad

A CANDIDATE who held a prominent government post and now running for a seat in Madaba is calling for corruption clean-up, and promising to relay people's demands if he wins a seat in the Lower House. When journalists asked him why he did not make these demands while he was in government, he said: "Only deputies can make such demands because deputies were voted by the people and they cannot be fired. If you are a minister and speak out, the government can tell you to go home and fire you." At least the man is honest.

ONE QUESTION being asked by women voters is why does Jordan Television only interview the women who believe that they had been given their full rights in Jordan. The JTV reporter covering the elections choose women who are content with their situation, and one hears comments like: "Those candidates who say they will support women's rights make it sound as if the women have no rights. Isn't it enough that we can vote?" At least half of the women would say otherwise, so why aren't those interviewed by JTV?

CANDIDATES participating in a public debate held at the Professional Association Complex Thursday announced that they had all signed a letter to the prime minister in which they requested the release of all political prisoners. The public cheered loudly when they heard the announcement, but when they were asked to sign the letter along with the candidates, the enthusiasm fizzled out.

A CANDIDATE who called for "improving the status of merchants by decreasing customs duties on imports," was met with anger from a very poor but very aware voter who maintained that "the economic situation in the Kingdom calls on us to increase customs. If anything, and not to decrease them at a time when the public should share responsibility in paying the national debt."

WHAT'S GOING ON EXHIBITIONS

- * An art exhibition by Foad Mimi and 'Ammar Khammash at Abdul Hamid Shoman Foundation's Scientific and Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian artist Mohammad Al Qaddoumi displaying oil and watercolour paintings depicting nature in Jordan, at the Housing Bank Gallery.
- * Islamic calligraphy exhibition at Jordan National Gallery.
- * A fine art exhibition at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- * An art exhibition by Jordanian Artists Jamal Ashoor, Hazem Al Zu'bi, Ghada Dahdada and Mohammad Al Jalous at Petra Bank Art Gallery.

FILM

- * A German video for children (pre-school age) entitled "Pusteh-hune" at the Goethe Institute — 3:00 p.m.

Pilot in Ghor crash recovering in hospital

AMMAN (J.T.) — Royal Jordanian Air Force pilot Abdullah Mohammad Mifteh, who survived a helicopter crash Thursday is receiving treatment for severe burns at the Al Hussein Medical Centre in Amman.

According to specialists and medical assistants, his chances for survival are good.

Mifteh, who is being treated at the anti-burns unit at the centre, was rushed there following the crash in the southern Jordan valley region that caused the death of eight army officers, who were on a routine mission near Ghor Al Safi.

One member of the rescue teams sent to the scene of the accident, south of the Dead Sea,

was injured during rescue operations and was also receiving treatment at the centre Friday.

The two injured men were visited by His Majesty King Hussein, who had earlier inspected the crash site, 180 kilometres south of Amman.

A military spokesman said that the eight officers were killed instantly when their helicopter crashed as a result of a technical failure.

The victims were: Brigadier Saoud Karabshe, Colonel Abdullah Matarnah, Lieutenant Colonel Mohammad Abbadi, Major Ahmad Shamaileh, Lieutenant Adnan Ouran, Lieutenant Ibrahim Matalqa, Non-Commissioned Officer Abdullah

Ka'kani.

King Hussein later sent a cable to Army Chief of Staff General Fathi Abu Taleb expressing deep sadness and sympathy over the loss of the army officers.

"We are deeply pained and distressed over the death of brave men who had dedicated their lives and their efforts to serving Jordan and the Arab Nation," King Hussein said in his cable to Abu Taleb.

King Hussein paid tribute to the Jordanian Armed Forces, which he said, "continue to guard the longest confrontation line, providing a shield to defend the Arab nation and who provide the means for Jordan's steadfastness in the face of external danger."



His Majesty King Hussein visits pilot who was injured in a helicopter crash Thursday (Petra photo)

The King, accompanied by His Royal Highness Prince Faisal and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker Friday called at Al Harah-shah family to offer condolences on the death of Brigadier Harah-

shah. Later King Hussein and Sharif Zeid called at King Hussein Medical Centre, where they visited the military pilot who survived the plane crash, and a Telecom-munication Corporation em-

ployee, who sustained an injury in course of his duties. Crown Prince Hassan, Abu Taleb and senior army officers offered condolences to Al Harah-shah family over the death of the brigadier.

Jordan, Egypt sign grid deal

CAIRO (J.T.) — Jordan and Egypt have concluded a formal agreement to link national grids as a preliminary step for possible more extensive linkage of power networks within the Arab World.

Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Hisham Al Khatib and Egyptian Minister of Electricity Maher Abaza signed the deal Thursday along with Mr. Abdul Latif Al Hamad, chairman of the board of directors of the Arab Fund for Economic and Social Development (AFESD), which will finance the project.

The first phase of the project is expected to start in 1990 and the whole project will take at least four years to be completed, according to Jordanian and Egyptian officials and technicians.

Jordan and Egypt announced last June they had reached agreement with the AFESD to finance the project with an initial \$170 million loan. A feasibility study on the project was successfully completed and Thursday's agreement paved the way for the project, according to officials.

They said that the AFESD would supply Jordan with a 10.5 million Kuwaiti dinar loan to cover the entire cost of the Jordanian side of the project, which entails laying overland and undersea cables linking the thermal power station in Aqaba and the Egyptian station in Suez. The Egyptian side will receive an AFESD loan totalling 34.1 million Kuwaiti dinar to cover the

cost on the Egyptian side, the official added.

The project entails laying a total of 300 kilometres of cables of 500-kilovolt capacity, according to Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) sources.

They said that the project was endorsed by Arab states in the region which expressed desire to link their grids with the new network at a later stage.

According to Abaza, such a pan-Arab network could be established within seven years.

Both Abaza and Khatib were received by Egyptian Prime Minister Atef Sidki Thursday to hear details of the project and review future plans in energy between Egypt and Jordan.

Printing press established for orphans

AMMAN (Petra) — A complex comprising a printing press, warehouses and workshops for training orphans was inaugurated at Ruseifa Thursday at a ceremony attended by Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Abdul Aziz Al Khayyat and Amman Mayor Ali Suheimat.

Suheimat and Khayyat toured parts of the JD 300,000 project.

Suheimat said in a statement later that the printing press would be used mainly to print the ministry's books and publications, including the Koran, and the workshop would be used for training Muslim orphans with a view to giving them employment at the complex. Furthermore the printing press will operate on purely commercial basis at very reasonable rates, Suheimat added. He said that the complex will later include a centre for training orphans in different trades.

NATIONAL NEWS IN BRIEF

KING CABLES FAHD: His Majesty King Hussein has sent a cable of condolences to King Fahd Ben Abdul Aziz of Saudi Arabia on the assassination of a Saudi diplomat in Beirut Wednesday. "We are deeply pained over the death of the diplomat, Mohammad Marzouki, and wish to convey to Your Majesty, the Saudi people and the bereaved family our deepest sorrow," the King said in his cable. King Hussein condemned the attack "as a criminal action committed against innocent people by evil elements and designed to cause harm to Islam and the Muslim people. The crime, which was committed in the name of Islam, would only serve to encourage Saudi Arabia to double its efforts towards serving the Arab nation." Cables of condolences were also sent by His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan and Prime Minister Sharif Zeid Ben Shaker to Saudi leaders expressing grief over the death of the late diplomat and condemning the crime.

KING CONDOLES QABOOS: His Majesty King Hussein Thursday sent a cable to Sultan Qaboos of Oman, condoling him over the death of his uncle, the late Majid Bin Taymour. His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan also sent a similar cable to Sultan Qaboos (Petra).

CONSUMER PROTECTION SOCIETY: Deputy Prime Minister and Interior Minister Salem Masaadeh Thursday endorsed the registration of the National Society for the Protection of Consumers. The society aims at studying consumer problems and finding solutions for them in cooperation with the parties concerned. The society also aims to promote consumer awareness on how to deal with commodities and consumer items so as to safeguard citizens' interests and protect the national economy (Petra).

ACC WOMEN INTEGRATION: Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHIF) Director Inaam Al Mufi Thursday discussed in Baghdad with Iraqi Women Federation Chairwoman Manal Younis means of developing joint projects and integrating women in development within the framework of cooperation among the four-member Arab Cooperation Council (ACC) comprising Jordan, Iraq, Egypt and North Yemen (Petra).

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Changing times

THE NINETIES are projected to be the era when the Warsaw Pact and the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliances will dissolve under the influence of a rapid wave of reformation and democratisation that is sweeping through Eastern Europe. In fact the Kremlin has recently said so in so many words when it signalled consent to any decision by Hungary to leave the Warsaw Pact and offered to officially tear down the pact in return for the dissolution of NATO. Such a proclamation from Moscow in reference to Hungary, which has recently undergone profound political change that culminated in transforming its character from a Communist nation belonging to the Warsaw Pact to a Western-style democracy, is a clear indication of Moscow's willingness to end military alliances and blocs.

Some observers even contemplate the unthinkable by projecting the unification of the two Germanys before the end of the twentieth century. The mammoth demonstrations building up in East Germany in support of rapid transformation in the political structure of the country, along the lines of the Hungarian and Polish experiments, have led many to forecast that this unification between the two countries is now more probable than ever.

It seems that the swiftness of the changes in Eastern Europe has taken the West, especially Washington, by surprise and that the West does not seem to be able to respond to them in kind. It also appears that the U.S. needs time to digest the rapid development of events in Eastern Europe as they were never thought possible to occur in such a short time. This could explain Washington's reluctance to accept the Kremlin offer to dissolve the Warsaw Pact in return for the dismantling of NATO. Still it would be naive to ever think that NATO as a military alliance will survive much longer at a time when its raison d'être is fast disappearing.

In the final analysis, the international scene will witness an entirely new ball game, where much, if not all, of the previous hypotheses and postulations will be buried until they rise again in a new form and style. This is of course very good news to homo sapiens who have suffered long enough under the strain of power blocs competing for military and political superiority. The period of relaxation in the world could usher in a new era of competition of a different kind most likely in the intellectual, economic and technological spheres. As the peoples and governments of the Arab World enter the threshold of this new period in human history, they would need to accentuate their tools as well in order to assist in shaping the course of the next century. To be sure, extremism must be rooted out from the midst of the Arab World lest the Arabs retreat to darker ages and lose the race for survival of the fittest. This is the biggest challenge that the Arab countries will have to encounter and address in the course of the next two decades. If they fail the challenges of the new era, they will once again betray their spectacular history which was marked by centuries of golden achievements.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AS the election day draws near, local Jordanian Arabic dailies intensify their discussion of the coming stage in their editorials and opinion columns alike.

Al Ra'i daily on Friday said that the election campaign is now reaching a climax as we enter the last week before the Nov. 8 election. It is quite natural to see the candidates and their supporters exerting their utmost efforts to win the votes of the electorate and to manifest themselves as the true representatives of the Jordanian people, the paper said. The paper underlined the importance of maintaining national unity and transcending all side differences while the campaign is continuing and while the voters make ready to elect their favourite candidates. Jordan, the paper said, has been a model for unity within the Arab World and has succeeded in maintaining its security and stability because of the awareness of its people and their sincere efforts and dedication. Therefore, said the paper, one can only hope that such awareness and sincere efforts will help bring a happy end to the campaign and bring conscientious deputies to the legislative council.

A columnist in Al Ra'i Arabic daily strongly attacks the perpetrators of the assassination of Saudi diplomat Mohammad Marzouki and condemns it as a criminal action directed against the whole Arab Nation. Mahmoud Rihanawi says that the crime committed in Beirut comes at a time when the Arab League mediation committee is striving to bring peace to the embattled country and when the various political leaders have come to an agreement on future steps to bring about stability and security to Beirut and the rest of the country. Rihanawi says that the assassination was directed not only against Saudi Arabia but also against the Arab League and Arab states; and was perpetrated by evil elements wishing to aggravate and inflame the situation. But the wri says, that these evil plots were thwarted thanks to the aware. of the various leaders, and with support from the world community which has just announced its full backing for the committee; endeavours and its support for the Arab League's plans to end the civil war in Lebanon.

Al Dustour Friday said that the past month witnessed a heated election campaign, and the coming days are expected to see feverish attempts by the candidates to win support from the voters. The paper said that the government has helped the campaign by providing all facilities for the candidates, and, by allowing them to express their views openly in implementation of His Majesty King Hussein's directives. The election campaign and the freedom of expression have added further colour to the event but also projected the country's freedom and democracy in every respect, said the paper. It said that it remains to be seen if the voters can rise to the occasion and elect persons truly dedicated to serve their people and nation.

'Strategic arms treaty is in sight'

By Patrick Worsnip

Reuter

LONDON — Beside the blue waters of Lake Geneva, U.S. and Soviet negotiators are entering what they believe is the last lap on their way to the most far-reaching arms control agreement of all time.

Hundreds of obstacles still litter the road to a Strategic Arms (START) Treaty designed to halve the superpowers' arsenals of long-range nuclear missiles and bombers within seven years.

But both sides now seem confident of success in what one U.S. official called "the longest, most complicated diplomatic agreement ever negotiated."

"An agreement is in sight, this is the last phase of the negotiating process," said a Western official familiar with the talks. The way has been opened "to the conclusion of the START treaty," agrees a Soviet diplomat.

No one expects the treaty to be ready when U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev meet aboard warships in the Mediterranean on Dec. 2-3.

Before this week's announcement of that meeting, diplomats had also been tactfully playing down suggestions by Bush that the pact could be completed for a previously announced summit scheduled for next spring or summer in the United States.

But, despite statements by both Washington and Moscow that no concrete decisions will come from the December summit, negotiators are bound to

look to it to give another big push to the talks by clearing away political obstacles.

The START talks, successor to the earlier SALT agreements which sought to limit but not reduce the superpowers' nuclear arsenals, began seven years ago.

But they have only made serious headway since the 1986 Reykjavik summit, which set ceilings for each side of 6,000 nuclear warheads aboard a maximum 1,600 strategic launchers. A launcher can be a ground- or submarine-based missile or a long-range bomber.

That would still be enough to destroy the world many times over, but even so, a huge amount of nuclear weaponry would have to be scrapped. Independent experts say that, under START counting rules, the United States currently has nearly 10,000 and the Soviet Union almost 11,000 strategic warheads.

A rush to complete the START treaty before the U.S. administration of Ronald Reagan ended last January ran out of steam, largely because the two sides, who signed a treaty in 1987 to ban medium-range missiles, lost the political will.

That will has now been re-kindled, with both Bush and Gorbachev anxious for foreign policy successes.

Several breakthroughs occurred when U.S. Secretary of State James Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze met in the American state of Wyoming in September.

The Soviet Union dropped its

refusal to sign a START treaty unless there was agreement on measures to curb the U.S. Star Wars programme for anti-missile defences.

This had been perhaps the biggest obstacle. The superpowers had been trying to agree a date when they might withdraw from their 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty, which bans deployment of Star Wars devices, but had made little headway.

The United States, for its part, agreed at Wyoming to lift its opposition to mobile ground-launched missiles, which Moscow has deployed, provided Congress adequately funded the two varieties which Washington is developing.

As a result of these advances, the two sides now report a reinvigorated atmosphere at Geneva. Moscow's admission last week that the controversial radar station being built at Krasnoyarsk would violate the ABM treaty, as the Americans had long argued, was seen as further evidence of a conciliatory spirit. The radar will now be dismantled.

Nevertheless, the 300-page draft treaty text that the two sides are working on still contains hundreds of bracketed passages, indicating areas of disagreement, according to sources close to the negotiations.

The most important remaining obstacles concern cruise missiles, slow-flying drones that can be fired from ships or aircraft.

The Soviet Union has proposed a limit of 400 nuclear and 600

conventional sea-launched cruise missiles (SLCMs). The United States, which is ahead in the technology, merely says each side should declare how many it plans to deploy.

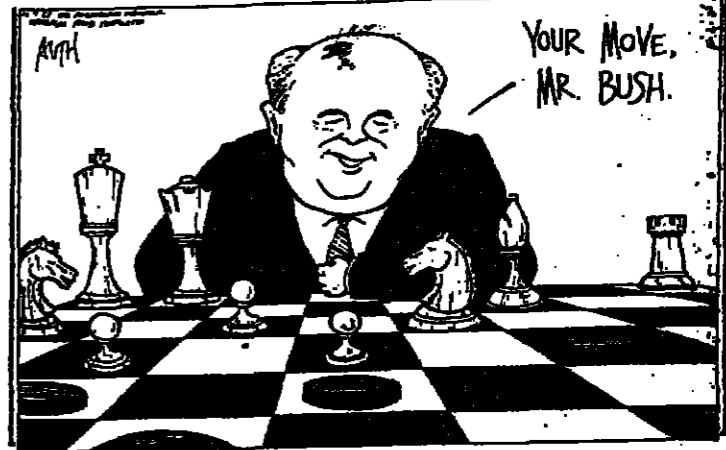
At Wyoming, the Soviets said a SLCM agreement need not be part of the START treaty text. Since they are still insisting on resolving the issue before signing START, the import of this concession is not clear, but some Western officials hope they may be starting to move towards the U.S. position.

Air-launched cruise missiles are also causing problems. How many should one assume a bomber is carrying? Ten, say the Americans. As many as the bomber can hold, say the Soviets.

If these hurdles can be overcome, the negotiators still face a daunting task trying to devise a system of monitoring compliance with the agreement that will satisfy critics, especially in the U.S. Senate which must ratify the accord.

The superpowers have some experience of "verification" techniques as a result of their medium-range missile pact, but START verification will be far more complex, involving possibly thousands of inspectors and costing many millions of dollars.

A team of American scientists is expected in Geneva in the next few weeks to demonstrate to the Soviets a scheme for tagging missiles, so that each rocket would carry a unique signature and no illegal ones could be hidden away.



Superpower summit expected to focus on East bloc changes

By Carol Giacomo

Reuter

WASHINGTON — Although there is to be no fixed agenda for the U.S.-Soviet summit in December, President Bush will put high priority on discussing with Mikhail Gorbachev the revolutionary changes under way in the Communist bloc.

Their surprise decision to hold the summit, announced on Tuesday, should help appease critics who have faulted Bush for reacting too cautiously to political and economic liberalism in the Soviet Union and Eastern Europe.

"Political developments in Europe are really eclipsing the importance of arms control," said analyst Barry Blechman of the Centre for Strategic and International Studies.

"It's not a bad idea for Bush to discuss informally with Gorbachev what's going on there and come to an understanding of each other's intentions and perceptions," he told Reuters.

At a news conference, Bush downplayed expectations for specific advances in arms control, the usual focus when U.S. and Soviet leaders meet.

Ironically, he thus raised expectations that a full-scale summit with Gorbachev set for mid-1990 would reach arms control agreements, private foreign policy analysts said.

That later summit — which Bush said would contrast with the informal "non-summit summit" aboard U.S. and Soviet naval vessels in the Mediterranean Dec. 2 and 3 — "will drive the arms control agenda (and) will be dominated by arms control," Bush told reporters.

He asserted his intention to explore with Gorbachev at their December meeting the American and Soviet economies and the fast-moving changes taking place in the East bloc.

"I want to do whatever the U.S. can do to facilitate these kinds of changes" and to understand from Gorbachev first-hand "as clearly as possible, his aspirations for perestroika (economic

restructuring)," Bush said. He and Secretary of State James Baker have made it clear they do not intend to exploit the movement toward freedom in the East at the expense of Soviet security and Bush is expected to re-stress this point with Gorbachev personally.

The potentially explosive situation in East Germany, which could lead to use of force against demonstrators, is especially worth discussing with Gorbachev, said Helmut Sonnenfeldt of the Brookings Institution.

None of the experts interviewed by Reuters expect Bush and Gorbachev would go so far as to actually reach some agreement on the future of Europe like that at Yalta after World War II.

Regional conflicts in the Middle East, Central America, Afghanistan, Cambodia and Angola, where the superpowers have been cooperating but so far failed to secure peace, will also be discussed, Bush said.

The December summit, the first since Bush became president last January, is likely to provide a political boost for both leaders, a point Bush acknowledged and said he would welcome.

Gorbachev, who took office in 1985, remain under siege at home for reforms that so far have not met consumer needs and have allowed unrest to surface in places like the Baltic Republics.

Bush, meanwhile, has been under attack from opposition Democrats for not enthusiastically embracing democratic trends in the Communist bloc and for not doing enough to encourage them, especially in Poland and Hungary.

The announcement of a December summit was unexpected. U.S. and Soviet foreign ministers declared at the conclusion of talks in Wyoming last month that Bush and Gorbachev would meet in late spring or early summer, presumably in the United States.

Although U.S. officials had quashed speculation about a pre-summit summit, Bush said on Tuesday he proposed the December meeting last

China left out in the cold?

By Guy Dinmore

Reuter

PEKING — While U.S. President George Bush and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev plan their first summit in the Mediterranean sea next month, diplomats see China's new hard-line leaders increasingly left out in the cold.

Just hours before Washington and Moscow announced on Tuesday their surprise summit, China launched a harsh attack on the United States, haranguing France for supporting dissidents and expelled two Hong Kong citizens from a law-drafting body.

Diplomats said while the developments were clearly not connected, they reflected China's increasingly isolationist stance.

"There is definitely a worldwide current which is turning away from China," a senior diplomat said.

"They have lost their magnetism of being a challenging and most interesting development in the world. The magic has gone," he added.

Western diplomats said it was too early to tell whether there

had been a strategic shift in the delicate triangular relationship between China, the Soviet Union and the United States.

Since soldiers and tanks crushed pro-democracy demonstrations in Peking in June, China's leaders have tried to pin some of the blame on what they call Western subversion.

The new official catchphrase is "peaceful evolution" — meaning Western attempts to subvert Communism through ideas and influence rather than force.

Senior leader Deng Xiaoping, at 85 still apparently in control of foreign policy, accused the United States on Tuesday of being "too deeply involved" in the unrest.

Like most Western countries, the United States responded to the June crackdown by suspending high-level contacts, military cooperation and official loans.

"There is a large group in the leadership which is strongly anti-American. There is a great fear that out of the U.S. there is a very strong movement which undermines Socialism," the senior diplomat commented.

Former U.S. President Richard

Nixon, on a private visit to China, told reporters after meeting Deng that Sino-American relations were facing their worst situation since 1972.

But China has fared little better with its Communist friends. Hungary and Poland are in the process of casting off more than 40 years of Communism, resulting in a distinct cooling of relations with China.

In the developing world, Grenada, Liberia and Belize have in quick succession switched diplomatic recognition to China's nationalist rival Taiwan, lured by attractive loans.

Diplomats said a more isolationist China need not mean serious repercussions in the region, except possibly for Hong Kong, where China has accused Britain of allowing its colony to be used as a base for anti-Communist subversion.

Peking was continuing talks with Indonesia on establishing diplomatic relations and contacts with India were also going on.

A fourth round of talks with the Soviet Union on their disputed border made some progress this week, according to a

Chinese statement, which also noted the significance for the negotiations of last May's Sino-Soviet summit, the first in 30 years.

But at home China's 1.1 billion people are starting to feel the brunt of the new policy.

Foreign values and material goods are under attack. Passports to leave the country are more difficult to obtain. Friendships with foreigners, especially journalists and diplomats, are under closer scrutiny.

On Tuesday, the official economic information daily slammed Chinese who wasted scarce foreign exchange on things like Pepsi Cola, Coca Cola, Sprite, American popcorn and Spanish bubblegum.

"It's a cheap way of playing to the nationalist sentiment of the Chinese people... but the leadership is finding it very difficult to control people's thoughts now," the senior diplomat commented.

"Isolation means modernisation and development will slow down seriously but the leaders can live with that. Too much speed creates tensions they can't cope with."

U.S. troops resent S. Korean hostility

By Choi Kyo

Reuter

SEOUL — "It's no fun being here defending people who hate you," says private first class Jeffrey Murdock.

"The days just go by too slow," said the 19-year-old American soldier from Ohio who arrived in South Korea six months ago.

"I stopped turning the calendar in May. Murdock is not alone in his loneliness or anger. There are 43,000 U.S. soldiers in South Korea and President George Bush said this month that American troops would stay as long as Seoul wanted them to.

South Korea's only English television channel, operated by the U.S. military, provides frank information on coping with depression, alcohol and drug abuse, family violence, and alienation.

Troops sometimes seek comfort in Itaewon, a brash and crowded Seoul bazaar where hundreds of shops sell fake brand-name goods by day and hundreds of prostitutes work by night on "hooker hill," a squalid alley of bars and brothels.

The American serviceman is entangled in a complex political and economic web as South Korea sheds its obsession with security concerns and increasingly questions the role of its staunchest ally over trade and reunification issues.

"American soldiers have become symbols representing a policy rather than individual people," said Bill Fullerton, chief of public information for United States Forces Korea (USFK).

"What concerns me is that there is a willingness now to hurt that didn't exist before," he said.

Since 1988 small bands of students yelling "Yankee go home" have attacked U.S. military installations and one family housing area with petrol bombs. No one

has been seriously hurt. "I feel nervous at times walking alone in the streets. Some people look like they want to hit you in the back with a bat," said David Fernandez, 21, a private from New York City now serving on a base south of Seoul.

"It seems many Koreans, especially the younger ones, are using us as a scapegoat. It's a far cry from the reassuring image U.S. servicemen used to enjoy — heroes throwing candy from jeeps to clusters of cheering South Korean children.

That was in the harsh days after the 1950-53 Korean war, when the south was devastated by its fratricidal struggle with the Communist north.

The U.S.-led United Nations command had rushed in combat legions from 16 nations to help South Korea drive back the Chinese-backed northern invaders.

The American serviceman is entangled in a complex political and economic web as South Korea sheds its obsession with security concerns and increasingly questions the role of its staunchest ally over trade and reunification issues.

South Korea rose from the ashes and boasts one of the world's fastest growing economies. It is currently the 10th largest trading nation.

Washington says it helped lay the foundations for this success by buying a major chunk of Seoul's exports while selling less. Now it is trying to pry open Seoul's markets by threatening trade sanctions, a move seen by many here as insensitive.

"We are no longer regarded as the liberators or the saviours but as American foreigners," Fullerton said.

"Koreans now say — 'what are you going to do for us today and tomorrow?' not 'What did you do for us yesterday?'"

In recent months the issue of U.S. troop reduction or withdrawal has come to the forefront of serious public debate both in Washington and Seoul.

Although under pressure from Congress to slash defence costs, the Bush administration has repeatedly told South Korea there will be no troop pull-out unless Seoul wants it — and so far there has been no sign of that.

While the troops will stay, their main base will be moved outside metropolitan Seoul some time in the next decade. City authorities say they will convert the area into a public park.

Polls show that most South Koreans feel the departure of U.S. troops now could reopen the deep wounds left by the civil war because of the fear that the north will invade again.

Radical students and dissidents claim the wounds are only festering because of the troops' presence.

It is a highly-charged issue for the young servicemen here, brought up on tales of American sacrifices in the Korean war.

"How many hundreds of thousands have died to save this piece of land and how many others have served here?" said an angry sergeant from Florida who has been here for 11 months.

They cannot understand the nationalists who see the U.S. troop presence as a blight, crushing any hope of reunification. Pyongyang has said that unity can only come if the Americans pull out.

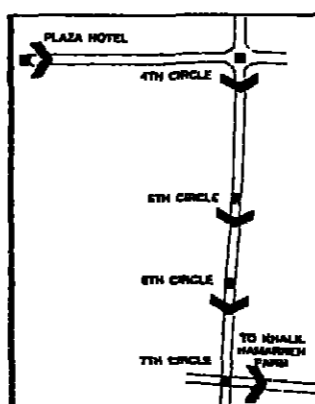
"If we pull out South Korea is dust," said the sergeant, who asked not to be named. "If we're not wanted though, why should we stay?"

"I'm a patriot," he said earnestly. "I'd die for my country. But I'd rather let others die for their own."



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Les femmes candidates

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Pour la première fois de leur histoire, les femmes jordanaises voteront mercredi aux élections générales. Résistant aux pressions de toutes sortes, douze

d'entre elles ont même choisi de figurer parmi les 651 candidats toujours en lice.

Quinze ans après avoir obtenu le droit de vote, les femmes jordanaises ont voté pour la première fois aux élections générales. Résistant aux pressions de toutes sortes, douze d'entre elles ont même choisi de figurer parmi les 651 candidats toujours en lice.

pour la simple et bonne raison que, si elles ne le font pas, elles ne pourront pas parler de nos problèmes. Elles ont même choisi de figurer parmi les 651 candidats toujours en lice.

Des revendications précises

L'entrée des femmes dans la course à la députation, même discrète, voit s'exprimer des revendications bien précises. L'égalité avec les hommes au regard de la loi civile ou pénale, le droit au travail, au divorce... figurent parmi les thèmes de chapitre des programmes des candidates.

"L'affaire" Toujan Fayal

S'il n'était pas rare, dès le début de la campagne, d'entendre des électrices considérer que "la voix d'une femme devrait compter pour moitié de celle d'un homme" et que "sa vraie place est au foyer", la place de certaines à l'égard de la présence de candidates aux législatives a pris une tournure plus dramatique avec "l'affaire" Toujan Fayal.

Malgré les menaces de mort, qu'elle prend très au sérieux, elle a décidé de poursuivre sa campagne. A l'instar des autres candidates, elle a été victime de menaces de mort.

Entre homme et femme en Jordanie L'inégalité du droit de divorce

Le nombre des divorces a presque doublé en Jordanie en 12 ans, passant de 2.750 en 1976 à 4.646 en 1988. Les mariages ont, eux aussi, augmenté, maintenant un même taux de divorce sur un mariage sur six se sépare. Une moyenne élevée dont l'homme est le principal responsable.

"E.Z.", transférée d'urgence à l'hôpital de Shmeisani, souffre de douleurs sévères à la tête, au cou et aux épaules. Les analyses révèlent les effets de coups anciens et récents à la tête, au cou, sur la bouche, les épaules et le cou droit.

23 ans qui essaie par tous les moyens d'éviter un troisième divorce d'avec le même époux. Flanquée d'un mari stérile qui la bat et lui a déjà imposé deux divorces, elle préfère l'existence de couple plutôt que le célibat. La loi jordanienne stipule, en effet, qu'une femme ne peut épouser un même homme une quatrième fois consécutivement. Après le troisième divorce, elle doit trouver un autre époux, ce qui n'est pas toujours simple.

Universités du troisième âge Les "papys" vont à l'école

Les sociétés industrielles modernes sont très performantes. Mais la sélectivité est impitoyable et met très tôt hors du circuit économique un grand nombre de personnes: entre ceux qui sont mis sur la touche à partir de 45 ans et ceux qui sont à la retraite après 60 ans cela fait, en France, 20 millions de personnes.

La société est féroce. Pour faire place aux jeunes, tous les vieux sont éliminés. Le vieillissement est la conséquence et non la cause du déclin d'activité intellectuelle. "L'âge ne doit pas signifier mort sociale et déchéance", déclare Pierre Vellas, mais début d'un nouvel épanouissement.

C'est donc dans cet esprit qu'a été ouverte en 1973 la première Université du troisième âge qui a immédiatement remporté un énorme succès non seulement en France où on en trouve 40 mais dans le monde entier où l'on en compte plus de 110 aujourd'hui. L'Université est ouverte à tous à partir de 50 ans. Pas de pédagogie particulière. Les personnes âgées sont des étudiants comme les autres. Ils se trouvent d'ailleurs au milieu des étudiants "jeunes" et peuvent à l'occasion croiser leurs petits enfants dans les couloirs! Pas de diplômes. Mais il est vrai que l'enseignement diffère du

Pleins feux sur les Législatives Le grand jeu médiatique



Deux cents journalistes et techniciens étrangers attendent une cellule de presse des reportages à la JTV dès 18h00 du matin mercredi: les premières législatives depuis 22 ans en Jordanie feront l'objet d'une couverture médiatique sans équivalent au cours des deux dernières décennies.

EN BREF

Huit morts. Huit militaires jordanais, dont six officiers, ont été tués et un nouveau blessé, lors d'un accident d'hélicoptère, jeudi matin, dans la région de Karak. L'hélicoptère de type "Super Fumax" s'est écrasé à la suite d'une défaillance technique. Six des neuf personnes à bord ont été tuées sur le coup, et deux autres ont succombé à leurs blessures à l'hôpital. Le roi Hussein s'est rendu sur les lieux de l'accident, puis à l'hôpital pour rencontrer le seul rescapé.

A L'AFFICHE

CINEMA
Cinéma et Révolution. Le centre culturel français, l'Institut Goethe et le British Council présentent une série de films consacrés aux événements de 1789.
Madame Du Barry, d'Ernst Lubitsch, avec Pola Negri (1919). Le destin d'une impératrice, devenue courtesane à l'aube de la Révolution.
Danton, d'André Weis, avec Gérard Philipe (1982). L'affrontement singulier de Danton et de Robespierre, deux figures emblématiques de 1789. D'après la pièce de Brecht.

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Nicaraguan troops launch offensive against contras

MANAGUA (Agencies) — Sandinista government troops are fighting rebels in northern provinces, using the end of a 19-month ceasefire to try to stop the guerrillas returning from Honduras, defence officials say.

A rebel commander said the guerrillas, known as contras, were ill-equipped and would not launch attacks against government forces.

The ruling Sandinista National Liberation Front's radio station said Thursday that fighting began soon after President Daniel Ortega announced Wednesday that a ceasefire with the rebels would not be renewed.

Two hours after suspending the ceasefire a company from Quilali and the militia engaged a group of 30 counterrevolutionaries in a combat. Radio Sandino said.

Quilali is about 280 kilometres north of the capital in Nueva Segovia province.

A Defence Ministry communiqué said three rebels were killed in a clash in El Guapote, 190 kilometres north east of the capital in Matagalpa province.

Fighting in two places in Jinotega province — Pantasma and Plan De Grama — wounded seven government soldiers, the ministry said.

Government troops in three

northern provinces, Nueva Segovia, Madriz and Esteli, were reorganising, the radio said.

"The (government) troops began to disperse and restructure the commands, which fell on experienced fighters," it said.

Ortega said he was cancelling the ceasefire because of the infiltration of 1,100 rebels from Honduras camps over the past three weeks.

Radio Sandino said Thursday that 400 rebels had worked their way back into the country in the Quilali area and two other northern zones and were "assassinating and kidnapping civilians and making propaganda for the rightist Unified National Opposition coalition."

The coalition, known as UNO, encompasses parties from both the left and right and is Ortega's main opposition in presidential elections scheduled for Feb. 1990.

In Tegucigalpa, Honduras, contra commander Enrique Bermudez said the rebels would continue observing the ceasefire. Since U.S. weapons and ammunition

supplies were cut off in February 1988, he said, the rebels have not been equipped to attack.

"These troops will only carry out evasive actions," he said.

The rebels said Thursday they had accepted in principle a Sandinista offer to meet Monday and Tuesday at the United Nations to discuss demobilisation. Nicaraguan Roman Catholic Cardinal Miguel Obando Y Bravo said he had also accepted an invitation to attend the talks.

Ortega said Thursday his troops had launched a major offensive, but called it a move for peace.

Speaking on U.S. television from Managua, he said: "Yes, it's a big offensive, but a big offensive for peace — that's what I want to get under way."

The country put its war machine into gear once more to fight the contras as a convoy of trucks carrying troops, ammunition and fuel rumbled along a dirt road near Santo Domingo 120 kilometres east of Managua.

The convoy was headed for northern Chontales province in central Nicaragua where Sandinista forces prepared an offensive against the contras, a day after Ortega lifted a 19-month-old ceasefire.

As it moved, the contras

accepted peace talks with the Sandinistas.

Captain Francisco Torrentes, commander of an infantry unit in the convoy, said: "We have orders from the (Sandinista) national directorate not to leave the field until the region is back to normal."

"That means that no more farming cooperatives are attacked, that the roads are cleared and that peasants can live in peace," he told reporters in Santo Domingo.

Costa Rican President Oscar Arias, architect of a Central American peace plan, joined international criticism of the decision, calling the end of the ceasefire a step backwards.

President George Bush termed Managua's decision to end the truce an assault on the Nicaraguan electoral process but said Washington would keep its options open.

"Despite Sandinista denials, it is hard not to believe that the government of Nicaragua is taking this action to give itself an excuse to close down the limited political space it has allowed thus far," he said.

"It is not clear how far Ortega intends to take his military and intimidation campaign. Accordingly, we must and we will keep our options open."

Salvadorean rebels suspend peace talks

SAN SALVADOR (AP) — Guerrillas have suspended peace talks with the government, accusing the president of colluding in the bombing of a union hall.

Thousands of union members buried six dead comrades Thursday and vowed to seek revenge.

"Because the colour of blood is never forgotten, our slain companions will be avenged," union members shouted, marching through downtown San Salvador Thursday, when the Day of the Dead holiday coincidentally was observed.

Many of the marchers carried wreaths and banners denouncing President Alfredo Cristiani's government.

The rebel coalition, the Farabundo Martí National Liberation Front, said Thursday it had "suspended our participation" in peace talks with the government.

Representatives of the rebels and the government were scheduled to meet Nov. 20 in Caracas, Venezuela, in the third round of talks that began in Mexico in September.

Judge and congressman killed in fresh Colombia explosions

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Two bombs exploded in the capital, killing three people, including a child, and injuring five, a national radio chain reported early Friday.

The latest attacks came late Thursday, the same day judges and court workers began a series of nationwide strikes demanding more protection from drug traffickers. The strikes were called in response to the murders Wednesday of a judge and a congressman, apparently by drug traffickers.

A car bomb exploded in the western part of the capital, killing three members of the same family who were walking nearby, the radio network Caracol said, quoting witnesses. The three victims were a woman, her small child and her nephew, the report said.

Four people were injured in the blast and one was in critical condition after losing his arm.

Caracol said. The bomb caused extensive damage to a mattress factory.

Another blast minutes earlier in northern Bogota damaged a bank and injured one person, the network reported.

Caracol quoted police as saying they had deactivated a third bomb, placed at a Colombian-American cultural exchange centre in downtown Bogota late Thursday, and a car bomb on the outskirts of the capital.

More than 180 bombings have rocked Colombia since the government declared a crackdown on drug traffickers Aug. 19, the day after a leading presidential candidate was assassinated. The terrorist campaign has left 25 people dead and another 224 injured.

In Medellin, where their judge was killed Wednesday, federal judges walked off the job indefinitely until they receive more protection.

WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

China releases wanted list

HONG KONG (AP) — A new wanted list issued by Chinese authorities named Chai Ling, a 23-year-old woman who played a key role in the pro-democracy movement, her husband and six other dissidents, a newspaper reported Friday. The independent Chinese-language Ming Pao newspaper printed a copy of what it identified as the official wanted list issued last month by the Ministry of Public Security. Such a document would seem to indicate that the dissidents are still at large. The wanted notice said the seven dissidents "were important criminals who incited, organised and led the Peking counterrevolutionary rebellion," the name used by the Chinese leadership for the protests. Of the three most prominent student leaders of the Tiananmen Square demonstrations last spring, Chai is the only one whose whereabouts have been unknown since the Chinese military violently suppressed the movement June 4.

Norwegian trawler nets Soviet sub

OSLO (R) — A Soviet submarine was entangled in the nets of a Norwegian trawler in the Barents Sea Thursday, the second such incident in three months, but broke free when the wires snapped in heavy seas. "There were no injuries and no damage to either of the vessels," Major Geir Andra of Norway's Northern Defence Command said. The non-nuclear Foxtrot-class submarine broke free just after dark when the two trawl wires snapped in a three-metre (10 foot) swell in international waters about 50 miles north east of Fiskehalvoya in the Norwegian Arctic. The submarine had surfaced beside the T.O. Senior trawler after it got caught a few hours earlier. Andra said a Soviet sailor slipped into the icy waters during efforts to free the submarine but was hauled out unharmed.

U.S. nun missing in Guatemala

GUATEMALA CITY (AP) — A Roman Catholic nun from the U.S. who had received threatening letters disappeared from the garden of a retreat house, a church official said. Archbishop Prospero Penados Del Barrio of Guatemala City said in a telephone interview that Sister Diana Ortiz, 31, of the Ursuline Order had gone into the garden Thursday of the Belene Sisters retreat house, a former convent in Antigua, and "she did not return at lunch time." In Washington, State Department spokesman Dave Denny said the U.S. embassy in Guatemala City has a report on Ortiz, and the Guatemalan police also have been given a missing person report. The archbishop said the nun probably has been kidnapped from the courtyard without anyone's noticing. She had been threatened several times while teaching kindergarten for more than a year in San Miguel Acatan, in Huehuetenango province, 362 kilometres north west of Guatemala City, he said.

Mauritius protests ship bombing

PORT LOUIS (R) — Mauritius has strongly protested to the United States over the accidental U.S. bombing of one of its own ships near the Indian Ocean island of Diego Garcia, which is claimed by Mauritius. Deputy Prime Minister Satcam Boolell, who is also foreign minister, said Thursday night he expressed grave concern over the incident to U.S. Charge d'Affaires Susan Johnson. A U.S. fighter jet Monday accidentally dropped a bomb on the American cruiser USS Reeves during military training exercises near Diego Garcia, injuring five U.S. Navy men. Diego Garcia is a British Indian Ocean territory about 1,000 nautical miles north east of Mauritius. It has no permanent population but houses a huge U.S. military base.

Soviet coal strike spreads in far north

MOSCOW (AP) — A coal strike threatened to shut down most of the shafts in the Soviet Arctic's Pechora Basin Friday, strike leaders said, while officials warned a drop in coal production could cause rationing this winter.

By Friday morning, some 18,000 workers at 12 of 13 mines in the Vorkuta region of the basin had joined the strike to press for improved living and working conditions, strike committee member Sergei Nosovoy said.

About 160 kilometres away in Inta, some 10,000 miners at five shafts were voting on whether to join the walkout, strike organiser Yaroslav Chaban said in a telephone interview.

Soviet authorities warned that declining coal production could force the rationing of heat and electricity.

Corruption, violence and sex blight Indian elections

NEW DELHI (R) — Sex, corruption and violence — traditional ingredients of Indian elections — have been added in large measure to the strong mix for this month's poll.

Accusations fly as politicians pursue vicious campaigns of character assassination. Intermine plots are denounced daily and both sides are gathering "goondas."

Goondas — toughs — protect candidates, disrupt general election meetings of rivals and intimidate voters on polling days, this year Nov. 22, 24 and 26.

"We all have to do it, because our rivals will," said a prominent member of Prime Minister Rajiv Gandhi's Congress Party this week.

Pre-election violence has already flared in the southern state Andhra Pradesh, where police opened fire to disperse rival supporters, and in Marxist-ruled West Bengal state.

Each side blames the other for an eruption of Hindu-Muslim violence in the electorally-crucial Hindi-speaking belt of northern India where more than 200 people have been killed in Hindu-Muslim riots over the past week. The riots were sparked by Hin-

du militants taking part in processions to press for a shrine to be built on a spot where Muslims have a mosque in the Uttar Pradesh town of Ayodhya. Congress accuses the opposition of fomenting the violence.

"This is going to be a dirty election, perhaps the dirtiest we have known. These kinds of allegations have been made before, but never to this extent," said Satpal Malik, spokesman for the opposition Janata Dal.

The opposition in turn accuses Congress of triggering Hindu-Muslim riots in Uttar Pradesh town of Badaun. There, the cause appeared to be the decision of the state's Congress government to declare Urdu an official language.

They said the decision on Urdu, the language associated by Hindus with the old enemy, Pakistan, was a simple bid to win the votes of Muslims, regarded as a crucial Congress vote-bank.

Se is not far behind violence, with Congress linking opposition politician Sanjay Singh — from Gandhi's own Amethi constituency in Uttar Pradesh — to the murder of former Indian badminton champion Syed Modi in July. He is accused of having an



Policemen arrest an ethnic Albanian after demonstrations in Podujevo, Yugoslavia.

5 killed as violence flares in Kosovo

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Ethnic violence has flared again in the southern province of Kosovo, and at least five ethnic Albanians have been killed in clashes with police, according to reports.

The unrest was sparked by the trial of the province's former Communist Party chief, Azem Vllasi, a popular ethnic Albanian, and 14 other Albanians.

Four people were killed Thursday in Pristina, capital of the southern province, when police dislodged a group of armed ethnic Albanians who had barricaded themselves inside a high-rise building, said sources who requested anonymity.

There was no immediate official confirmation of the report. Police disclosed earlier Thursday that an ethnic Albanian identified as Bedri Skilji was shot and killed Wednesday night when about 1,000 demonstrators took to the streets in Pristina.

An unspecified number of people were injured in the Wednesday clash.

Before they retook the high-rise building Thursday, security forces met with gunfire from automatic weapons held by the people barricaded inside, sources in Pristina told the Associated Press by telephone.

Only a few hours earlier, about 500 demonstrators attempted to stage a protest on the main street of Pristina, but were quickly dispersed by police using tear gas and batons.

Clashes also broke out Thursday in other Kosovo towns, where police fought running battles with demonstrators. One policeman was seriously injured when a protester hit him with an axe in Podujevo, a town 31 kilometres north of Pristina, a television news programme said.

The reports of deaths were the first in the flare-up of violence that started when Vllasi's trial

opened Monday. He and the other defendants are charged with "counter-revolutionary activity" for allegedly plotting Kosovo's independence from Yugoslavia.

The trial has been postponed for at least 10 days while an appeals court rules on a defence motion for the exclusion of the presiding judge and the public prosecutor.

Officials and the news media in Yugoslavia's liberal northern republic of Slovenia and in Croatia, as well as international human rights organisations, have denounced the proceedings, describing them as a "farce" and a "show trial."

Kosovo authorities deny those charges and say "outsiders are trying to disrupt the due course of law in the province."

Vllasi is also charged with inciting riots last February and March that left at least 25 people dead, including two policemen.

Laurel joins march for return of Marcos body to Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Vice President Salvador Laurel joined thousands of people marching through the city Friday to demand the return from Hawaii of Ferdinand Marcos' body in the largest show of public support for the late president since 1986.

Reporters estimated that the crowd swelled to about 20,000 as the protesters reached suburban Quezon City for their rally, climbing an 11-day march from Marcos' home province of Ilocos Norte.

During the rally, the crowd cheered wildly as Laurel asked: "Do you agree that Marcos' body must be allowed home?"

"It is now very clear what the people want. You are a very powerful force. The government must follow the peoples' will. If not, you know what to do," said Laurel, who is at odds with President Corason Aquino.

Marchers left Marcos' hometown of Batangas, 400 kilometres north of Manila, on Oct. 24 to urge Aquino to lift his ban on bringing Marcos' remains to the Philippines for burial.

The marchers reached Manila on the eve of Mrs. Aquino's departure for Canada and the United States. Marcos died on Sept. 28 in Honolulu, where he lived since being ousted in a 1986

civilian-military coup that swept the widow of assassinated opposition leader Benigno Aquino to power.

Friday's crowd included Laurel, opposition Sen. Juan Ponce Enrile and other former officials of the Marcos administration. Military Chief of Staff Gen. Renato de Villa had ordered soldiers not to participate.

"I am glad at the turnout," Laurel told reporters. "It only means that the people are with us." Laurel said Mrs. Aquino cannot ignore "the voice of the people" on the return of Marcos' body.

U.S. lawmakers agree on \$305b defence bill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Lawmakers are optimistic President George Bush will accept a \$305-billion defence bill that cuts \$1.1 billion from the Strategic Defense Initiative (SDI) and provides one less B-2 Stealth bomber in fiscal 1990.

"Apart from SDI, on the whole it's the bill which we find acceptable," Sen. John Warner of Virginia, ranking Republican on the Senate Armed Services Committee, said.

"We're buying too many big-ticket items with no hard choices," said congressman John Kasich, another Republican and panel member.

The object of their anger was the conferees' decision to provide money for the Marine Corps' V-20 Osprey, the aircraft that takes off like a helicopter but can

fly like a plane, and the navy's F-14D Tomcat jet fighter.

The tilt-rotor Osprey, which Bush sought to cancel, will receive \$255 million in research and development money but no procurement funds.

The negotiators also agreed to buy 18 F-14Ds in the fiscal year that began Oct. 1 but none in fiscal 1991. The legislation also requires the manufacturer, Grumman Corp., of New York, to "sign up for termination," according to Sen. Sam Nunn, chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee.

The debate over the cancellation of the F-14D was the most contentious of the nearly eight weeks of debate over the two widely divergent House and

Senate defence bills, lawmakers said.

Defence Secretary Dick Cheney said he was "generally pleased" with the bill because it provides for "a strong national defence and the basic principles of the president's defence budget recommendations."

But Cheney expressed some disappointment with the cut in SDI, the planned space-based missile defence systems.

The bill provides \$3.7 billion for the anti-missile shield.

That represents about \$200 million less than the amount earmarked in fiscal 1989 and the first decrease in funds since former President Ronald Reagan proposed the programme six years ago.

COLUMN

Not a jewel thief, just a burglar

BRUSSELS (R) — A Belgian suspected of robbing a jeweller's shop told police in Liege he couldn't have done it because he was breaking into a school at the time. Police said they arrested the man for the break-in. Belga News Agency reported Wednesday.

Find killer and jump the queue

MOSCOW (R) — Help find a murderer in the Ukrainian city of Kharkov and you could be offered a favourable place in the queue for scarce cars and housing. The daily Komsomolskaya Pravda reported that authorities in the city of 1.5 million had made the offer along with a substantial reward in connection with six murder cases. The paper said thousands of calls had been received, leading to the capture of one suspect who admitted to two killings. It did not mention whether anyone had received a reward for providing information against him.

Turtles return to sea

ABU DHABI (R) — Fishermen in the United Arab Emirates were forced to return 10 turtles to the sea after they were intercepted in the Gulf. Mohammad Al Zaabi, head of the fisheries department in the northern emirate of Ras Al Khaimah, said Friday the turtles were freed a day earlier by patrols set up specifically to protect them. "We try our hardest to preserve turtles," he said.

Girl saved from train crash

CLEVELAND (AP) — A man chasing a driver in anger after she knocked down signs in front of his home pulled her from her disabled car seconds before it was demolished by a train, police said. "It's funny. At first I was mad at this girl when she hit those signs in front of our house," Thomas Saunders said. "But when she got stuck on the tracks, I didn't even remember what I was mad about. All I could think of was she needed help."

I actually got into my car with the purpose of chasing her down to get her license plate number," said Saunders, 19, of Cleveland. Jennifer Johnson, 17, of Painesville was going westbound on a city street when she turned the car and tried to drive across railroad tracks. Police said a wheel of her car became lodged in the tracks. Saunders said he tried unsuccessfully to push her car with his. As the train approached, Saunders said he yelled at Ms. Johnson to leave her car. "As the train was approaching, the driver blew his horn, and she got hysterical," he said. "I opened up her car door and pulled her out just before the train demolished the car."

Police said she had not been cited for traffic violations, but an investigation was continuing.

Age puts limits on glamour

NEW YORK (AP) — Angie Dickinson says she knows how age puts limits on glamour. In the 1960s, she told People magazine, agent Irving "Swift" Lazar told her: "You're too old to be wearing hot pants." I was in my early 30s, and he was right. Certain things don't work after a certain point. It's just good taste," said the 58-year-old actress, who stars with Telly Savalas in an upcoming Kojak movie on ABC. "You think you'll look good or that they've photographed you well, but you end up fooling yourself."

Global weather

(major world cities)

	MIN.	MAX.	
AMSTERDAM	09	48	13 55 Clear
ATHENS	11	52	24 75 Clear
BAHRAIN	26	79	31 98 Cloudy
BANGKOK	25	77	33 91 Clear
BUENOS AIRES	15	59	19 96 Rain
CAIRO	16	61	26 79 Clear
CHICAGO	02	38	05 41 Cloudy
COPENHAGEN	09	48	13 55 Rain
FRANKFURT	11	52	14 57 M
GENEVA	01	30	13 55 Rain
HONG KONG	23	73	25 77 Cloudy
ISTANBUL	14	57	22 72 Clear
LONDON	08	46	14 57 Clear
LOS ANGELES	13	55	29 85 Clear
MADRID	08	46	20 68 Clear
MECCA	24	75	38 100 Cloudy
MONTREAL	01	30	13 55 Cloudy
MOSCOW	04	39	07 45 Cloudy
NEW DELHI	13	56	34 93 Clear
NEW YORK	07	45	16 56 Clear
PARIS	12	54	19 66 Rain
ROME	13	55	21 70 Clear
SYDNEY	16	61	21 70 Clear
TOKYO	10	50	19 66 Clear
VIENNA	07	45	11 52 Cloudy

M indicates missing information.